

II. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

CLAIMS:

1 – 32 (Cancelled)

33. (Currently Amended) A treating fluid composition comprising:

a zeolite selected from the group consisting of clinoptilolite, analcime, bikitaite, brewsterite, chabazite, faujasite, harmotome, heulandite, laumontite, mesolite, natrolite, paulingite, phillipsite, scolecite, stellerite, stilbite, and thomsonite;

a polymer selected from the group consisting of hydroxyethylcellulose, cellulose, carboxyethylcellulose, carboxymethylcellulose, carboxymethylhydroxyethylcellulose, hydroxypropylcellulose, methylhydroxypropylcellulose, methylcellulose, ethylcellulose, propylcellulose, ethylcarboxymethylcellulose, methylethylcellulose, hydroxypropylmethylcellulose, starch, guar gum, locust bean gum, tara, konjak, tamarind, karaya gum, welan gum, xanthan gum, galactomannan gums, succinoglycan gums, scleroglucan gums, tragacanth gum, arabic gum, ghatti gum, tamarind gum, carrageenan, carboxymethyl guar, hydroxypropyl guar, carboxymethylhydroxypropyl guar, polyacrylate, polymethacrylate, polyacrylamide, maleic anhydride, methylvinyl ether copolymers, polyvinyl alcohol, and polyvinylpyrrolidone; and

a carrier fluid.

34. (Original) The treating fluid composition of claim 33, wherein the treating fluid is selected from the group consisting of drilling fluids, completion fluids and stimulation fluids.

35. (Original) The treating fluid composition of claim 33, wherein the treating fluid is selected from the group consisting of drilling muds, well cleanup fluids, workover fluids, spacer fluids, gravel pack fluids, acidizing fluids and fracturing fluids.

36. (Original) The treating fluid composition of claim 35, wherein the treating fluid comprises a spacer fluid.

37 – 39 (Canceled)

40. (Currently Amended) The treating fluid composition of claim 33, wherein the zeolite is selected from the group consisting of analcime, ~~bikitaite, brewsterite,~~ chabazite, clinoptilolite, ~~faujasite, harmotome,~~ heulandite, ~~laumontite, mesolite, and~~ natrolite, ~~paulingite, phillipsite, scolecite, stellerite, stilbite, and thomsonite.~~

41. (Original) The treating fluid composition of claim 33, wherein the treating fluid composition comprises from about 5 to 90% by weight of the zeolite.

42. (Original) The treating fluid composition of claim 33, wherein the treating fluid composition comprises from about 60 to 70% by weight of the zeolite.

43. (Original) The treating fluid composition of claim 33, wherein the carrier fluid comprises a fluid selected from the group consisting of an aqueous fluid, hydrocarbon-based liquids, emulsions, acids and mixtures thereof.

44. (Original) The treating fluid composition of claim 43, wherein the carrier fluid comprises water.

45. (Original) The treating fluid composition of claim 33, wherein the treating fluid composition comprises from about 45 to 95% by volume of the carrier fluid.

46. (Original) The treating fluid composition of claim 33, wherein the treating fluid composition comprises from about 65 to 75% by volume of the carrier fluid.

47. (Currently Amended) The treating fluid composition of ~~claim 37, wherein the viscosifier is~~ claim 33 further comprising an additive selected from the group consisting of ~~colloidal agents, emulsion-forming agents,~~ diatomaceous earth and ~~starches~~ clay.

48. (Canceled)

49. (Currently Amended) The treating fluid composition of ~~claim 48, wherein the viscosifier is a clay~~ claim 47 wherein the clay is selected from the group consisting of kaolinites, montmorillonite, bentonite, hydrous micas, attapulgite, sepiolite, and laponite.

50 – 52 (Canceled)

53. (Currently Amended) The treating fluid composition of ~~claim 52~~ claim 33, wherein the ~~organic~~ polymer is selected from the group consisting of hydroxyethylcellulose, carboxymethylhydroxyethylcellulose and guar gum.

54. (Currently Amended) The treating fluid composition of ~~claim 53~~ claim 33, wherein the ~~organic~~ polymer comprises hydroxyethylcellulose.

55. (Currently Amended) The treating fluid composition of ~~claim 52~~ claim 33, wherein the ~~organic~~ polymer is selected from the group consisting of welan gum, xanthan gum, galactomannan gums, succinoglycan gums, scleroglucan gums, and cellulose and its derivatives.

56 – 57 (Canceled)

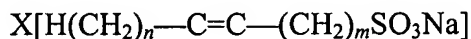
58. (Currently Amended) The treating fluid composition of ~~claim 38, comprising~~ claim 33 further comprising a dispersant selected from the group consisting of sulfonated styrene maleic anhydride copolymer, sulfonated vinyltoluene maleic anhydride copolymer, sodium naphthalene sulfonate condensed with formaldehyde, sulfonated acetone condensed with formaldehyde, lignosulfonates and interpolymers of acrylic acid, allyloxybenzene sulfonate, allyl sulfonate and non-ionic monomers.

59 – 60 (Canceled)

61. (Currently Amended) The treating fluid composition of ~~claim 38, wherein the treating fluid composition comprises~~ claim 33, further comprising a surfactant selected from the group consisting of nonylphenol ethoxylates, alcohol ethoxylates, sugar lipids, α -olefinsulfonates, alkylpolyglycosides, alcohol sulfates, salts of ethoxylated alcohol sulfates, alkyl amidopropyl dimethylamine oxides and alkene amidopropyl dimethylamine oxides.

62. (Currently Amended) The treating fluid composition of claim 61, wherein the surfactant is selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) a sodium salt of α -olefinic sulfonic acid which is a mixture of compounds of the formulas:



and



wherein:

n and m are individually integers in the range of from about 6 to about 16;

p and q are individually integers in the range of from about 7 to about 17; and

X and Y are fractions with the sum of X and Y being 1;

- (b) a composition having the formula:

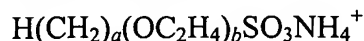


wherein:

a is an integer in the range of from about 6 to about 10;

- (c) oxyalkylated sulfonate;

- (d) an alcohol ether sulfate of the formula:



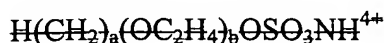
wherein:

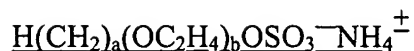
a is an integer in the range of from about 6 to about 10; and

b is an integer in the range of from about 3 to about 10;

- (e) cocoamine betaine;

- (f) an ethoxylated alcohol ether sulfate of the formula:





wherein a is an integer in the range of from about 6 to about 10 and b is an integer in the range of from about 3 to about 10;

(g) an alkyl or alkene amidopropyl betaine having the formula:



wherein R is a radical selected from the group of decyl, cocoyl, lauryl, cetyl and oleyl;
and

(h) an alkyl or alkene amidopropyl dimethylamine oxide surfactant having the formula:



wherein R is a radical selected from the group of decyl, cocoyl, lauryl, cetyl and oleyl.

63 – 64 (Canceled)

65. (Currently Amended) The treating fluid composition of ~~claim 38, wherein the treating fluid composition comprises~~ claim 33 further comprising a weighting material selected from the group consisting of barite, hematite, manganese tetraoxide, ilmenite and calcium carbonate.

66 – 105 (Canceled)

106. (New) A treating fluid composition comprising:

a zeolite selected from the group consisting of clinoptilolite, analcime, bikitaite, brewsterite, chabazite, faujasite, harmotome, heulandite, laumontite, mesolite, natrolite, paulingite, phillipsite, scolecite, stellerite, stilbite, and thomsonite;

a dispersant selected from the group consisting of sodium naphthalene sulfonate condensed with formaldehyde, sulfonated styrene maleic anhydride copolymer, sulfonated vinyltoluene maleic anhydride copolymer, sulfonated acetone condensed with formaldehyde, lignosulfonates and interpolymers of acrylic acid, allyloxybenzene sulfonate, allyl sulfonate and non-ionic monomers; and

a carrier fluid.

107. (New) The treating fluid composition of claim 106, wherein the treating fluid is selected from the group consisting of drilling fluids, completion fluids and stimulation fluids.

108. (New) The treating fluid composition of claim 106, wherein the treating fluid is selected from the group consisting of drilling muds, well cleanup fluids, workover fluids, spacer fluids, gravel pack fluids, acidizing fluids and fracturing fluids.

109. (New) The treating fluid composition of claim 108, wherein the treating fluid comprises a spacer fluid.

110. (New) The treating fluid composition of claim 106, wherein the zeolite is selected from the group consisting of analcime, chabazite, clinoptilolite, heulandite, and natrolite.

111. (New) The treating fluid composition of claim 106, wherein the treating fluid composition comprises from about 5 to 90% by weight of the zeolite.

112. (New) The treating fluid composition of claim 106, wherein the treating fluid composition comprises from about 60 to 70% by weight of the zeolite.

113. (New) The treating fluid composition of claim 106, wherein the carrier fluid comprises a fluid selected from the group consisting of an aqueous fluid, hydrocarbon-based liquids, emulsions, acids and mixtures thereof.

114. (New) The treating fluid composition of claim 106, wherein the carrier fluid comprises water.

115. (New) The treating fluid composition of 106 further comprising an additive selected from the group consisting of diatomaceous earth and clay.

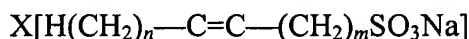
116. (New) The treating fluid composition of claim 115 wherein the clay is selected from the group consisting of kaolinites, montmorillonite, bentonite, hydrous micas, attapulgite, sepiolite, and laponite.

117. (New) The treating fluid composition of claim 106 further comprising a polymer selected from the group consisting of hydroxyethylcellulose, carboxymethylhydroxyethylcellulose, guar gum, welan gum, xanthan gum, galactomannan gums, succinoglycan gums, scleroglucan gums, and cellulose.

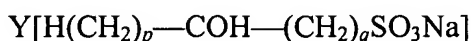
118. (New) The treating fluid composition of claim 106 further comprising a surfactant selected from the group consisting of nonylphenol ethoxylates, alcohol ethoxylates, sugar lipids, α -olefinsulfonates, alkylpolyglycosides, alcohol sulfates, salts of ethoxylated alcohol sulfates, alkyl amidopropyl dimethylamine oxides and alkene amidopropyl dimethylamine oxides.

119. (New) The treating fluid composition of claim 118, wherein the surfactant is selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) a sodium salt of α -olefinic sulfonic acid which is a mixture of compounds of the formulas:



and



wherein:

n and m are individually integers in the range of from about 6 to about 16;

p and q are individually integers in the range of from about 7 to about 17; and

X and Y are fractions with the sum of X and Y being 1;

- (b) a composition having the formula:

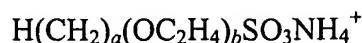


wherein:

a is an integer in the range of from about 6 to about 10;

- (c) oxyalkylated sulfonate;

- (d) an alcohol ether sulfate of the formula:



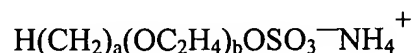
wherein:

a is an integer in the range of from about 6 to about 10; and

b is an integer in the range of from about 3 to about 10;

- (e) cocoamine betaine;

- (f) an ethoxylated alcohol ether sulfate of the formula:



wherein a is an integer in the range of from about 6 to about 10 and b is an integer in the range of from about 3 to about 10;

- (g) an alkyl or alkene amidopropyl betaine having the formula:



wherein R is a radical selected from the group of decyl, cocoyl, lauryl, cetyl and oleyl;
and

- (h) an alkyl or alkene amidopropyl dimethylamine oxide surfactant having the formula:



wherein R is a radical selected from the group of decyl, cocoyl, lauryl, cetyl and oleyl.

120. (New) The treating fluid composition of claim 106 further comprising a weighting material selected from the group consisting of barite, hematite, manganese tetraoxide, ilmenite and calcium carbonate.

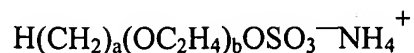
121. (New) A treating fluid composition comprising:

a zeolite selected from the group consisting of clinoptilolite analcime, bikitaite, brewsterite, chabazite, faujasite, harmotome, heulandite, laumontite, mesolite, natrolite, paulingite, phillipsite, scolecite, stellerite, stilbite, and thomsonite;

a carrier fluid; and

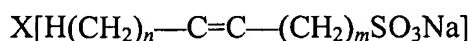
a surfactant selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) an ethoxylated alcohol ether sulfate of the formula:



wherein a is an integer in the range of from about 6 to about 10 and b is an integer in the range of from about 3 to about 10;

- (b) a sodium salt of α -olefinic sulfonic acid which is a mixture of compounds of the formulas:



and



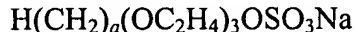
wherein:

n and m are individually integers in the range of from about 6 to about 16;

p and q are individually integers in the range of from about 7 to about 17; and

X and Y are fractions with the sum of X and Y being 1;

- (c) a composition having the formula:

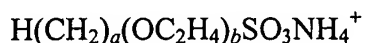


wherein:

a is an integer in the range of from about 6 to about 10;

- (d) oxyalkylated sulfonate;

- (e) an alcohol ether sulfate of the formula:



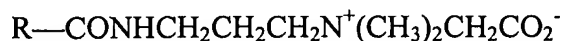
wherein:

a is an integer in the range of from about 6 to about 10; and

b is an integer in the range of from about 3 to about 10;

- (f) cocoamine betaine;

- (g) an alkyl or alkene amidopropyl betaine having the formula:



wherein R is a radical selected from the group of decyl, cocoyl, lauryl, cetyl and oleyl;

and

(h) an alkyl or alkene amidopropyl dimethylamine oxide surfactant having the formula:



wherein R is a radical selected from the group of decyl, cocoyl, lauryl, cetyl and oleyl.

122. (New) The treating fluid composition of claim 121, wherein the treating fluid is selected from the group consisting of drilling fluids, completion fluids and stimulation fluids.

123. (New) The treating fluid composition of claim 121, wherein the treating fluid is selected from the group consisting of drilling muds, well cleanup fluids, workover fluids, spacer fluids, gravel pack fluids, acidizing fluids and fracturing fluids.

124. (New) The treating fluid composition of claim 123, wherein the treating fluid comprises a spacer fluid.

125. (New) The treating fluid composition of claim 121, wherein the zeolite is selected from the group consisting of analcime, chabazite, clinoptilolite, heulandite, and natrolite.

126. (New) The treating fluid composition of claim 121, wherein the treating fluid composition comprises from about 5 to 90% by weight of the zeolite.

127. (New) The treating fluid composition of claim 121, wherein the treating fluid composition comprises from about 60 to 70% by weight of the zeolite.

128. (New) The treating fluid composition of claim 121, wherein the carrier fluid comprises a fluid selected from the group consisting of an aqueous fluid, hydrocarbon-based liquids, emulsions, acids and mixtures thereof.

129. (New) The treating fluid composition of claim 121, wherein the carrier fluid comprises water.

130. (New) The treating fluid composition of 121 further comprising an additive selected from the group consisting of diatomaceous earth and clay.

131. (New) The treating fluid composition of claim 130 wherein the clay is selected from the group consisting of kaolinites, montmorillonite, bentonite, hydrous micas, attapulgite, sepiolite, and laponite.

132. (New) The treating fluid composition of claim 121 further comprising a polymer selected from the group consisting of hydroxyethylcellulose, carboxymethylhydroxyethylcellulose, guar gum, welan gum, xanthan gum, galactomannan gums, succinoglycan gums, scleroglucan gums, and cellulose.

134. (New) The treating fluid composition of claim 121 further comprising a weighting material selected from the group consisting of barite, hematite, manganese tetraoxide, ilmenite and calcium carbonate.